

Special



User Guide

v1.1

A custom Kodi build based on v17.0 Krypton RC2

[Download the latest software and user guide here](#)

Table of Contents

[Table of Contents](#)

[What is this? Is it legal?](#)

[Can I watch this content on my TV?](#)

[Before you begin...](#)

[Initial Installation](#)

[Using Special X](#)

[Quick Start](#)

[Settings](#)

[Updates](#)

[How to install Special X updates](#)

[Tips on using Special X](#)

[Included Add-ons](#)

[Add-ons - Video](#)

[Add-ons Music](#)

[Add-ons - Program](#)

[Visualizations](#)

What is this? Is it legal?

Special K is a custom build of the latest Kodi release, the excellent open source home theater application. It is the same software that powers the popular 'Free TV' boxes available for sale.

Installing this software on a PC (or Mac, Android, Linux or even Raspberry pi device) is superior to the boxes for several reasons. The major drawback to the pre-loaded boxes is updates. Kodi will attempt to update itself but at some point this will fail. Add-ons become obsolete and are replaced by new ones. Eventually the box will stop working. If you are technically inclined you can learn how to fix it yourself (although if you were, you probably would not have bought a pre-loaded box in the first place!). Many of these boxes will probably end up in the garbage within a couple of years. I would also have serious security concerns about using these boxes, see below.

So is this legal?

Kodi contains no illegal content, it's how you use it that might break the law.

There is currently a landmark court case in the UK against an individual selling these boxes which might provide some clarity, although the case is expected to drag through the courts for a long time. This is an individual profiting off devices blatantly offering illegal content. The risk to an individual using this software is extremely low.

Builds like Special X contain software called add-ons which are used to access media content. Some of this content is legal, some is not, and it can be difficult to tell. If you use it to stream illegal content, that is entirely your choice and you accept the risk. Please read the section below on security.

Can I watch this content on my TV?

Absolutely (unless you have a CRT TV from the 90s). The details depend on the hardware you're using and are well beyond the scope of this guide.

Generally speaking, the best setup is to install Special X on a dedicated home theater computer directly connected to your TV. If this isn't feasible, you can often connect laptops and portable devices directly to your TV via an HDMI cable. Another convenient option is to attach a [Google Chromecast](#) device to your TV. You can Google Kodi+Chromecast to learn how to set it up.

Before you begin...

There are some important security issues to consider before using this software. Adequate protection will cost you some money (at most \$100/year) but it's a good investment. I would never consider going anywhere on the internet without this protection, but it's particularly important when you use this software.

It is mandatory to use a reliable VPN (in my opinion at least). Free services typically are not trustworthy and provide inadequate bandwidth. Spend a few dollars. I use [Private Internet Access](#).

I would also recommend an anti-malware application that monitors your internet activity in real time, in addition to the service that comes with your OS. Again it's probably best to spend a few dollars here. But be careful because there are some really bad choices out there, including some that cost a lot of money. I use [Malwarebytes Premium](#) (the free version is very good but doesn't monitor your system in real time)

And please make sure your OS has the latest updates!

Another consideration is bandwidth. You can stream some very high quality media all the way up to 4K with 7.1 surround sound with this software. This can consume a lot of bandwidth. If you don't have a good high speed internet connection, it can be a frustrating experience. And if you don't have an unlimited data plan, you will want to keep a close eye on your data usage

Initial Installation

The first thing you're going to need is the latest version of Special X which will be named 'Special+X.xxx.zip'. You can download it [here](#).

Okay, so this part is a bit tedious. The good news is you only have to do it once per machine. It will take about 15 minutes

1. Download the latest Kodi beta installer for your operating system [here](#). Get the release build, not the nightly build
2. Install the downloaded file. Grant it access through your firewall when asked
3. Click the **Settings Icon** (the 'gear' in the upper left) then **File manager**
4. Double click **Add Source** (the need to double click is kind of confusing for new users when everything else is single click, a quirk in the software that can hang you up if you're not aware)
5. Select **None**
6. Type the following EXACTLY `http://noobsandnerds.com/portal` (or copy and paste it. You will have to use <ctrl V> to paste in Kodi), then select **Done**
7. Click the box underneath **Enter a name for this media Source**, type noobsandnerds (or whatever you like really) and select OK
8. Go back to your Home Screen (press Escape repeatedly to back out of levels and return to the Home Screen)
9. Select **Add-ons** in the column on the left
10. Select the **Package Icon** in the upper left
11. Select **Install from zip file**
12. A warning will come up saying 'For security, installation of add-ons from unknown sources is disabled'. Click on **Settings**
13. Click the slider beside Unknown sources then click **Yes** to the Warning!
14. Click Escape to go back a level and again click **Install from zip file**. This time you will see a list of sources
15. Select noobsandnerds (or whatever you named the source)
16. Take a deep breath, you're halfway there
17. Select noobsandnerds_repo.zip
18. Wait for 'Add-on enabled' notification
19. Select **Install from repository**
20. Select **noobsandnerds Repository**
21. Select **Program add-Ons**
22. Select **Community Portal**
23. Select **Install**
24. Wait for 'Add-on enabled' notification

25. You now need to restart Kodi. Press Escape (or the ... icon on the screen) repeatedly to return home, then press the **Power Icon** followed by **Exit**
26. Restart Kodi
27. Click **Add-ons** in the left column of the home screen
28. Now you have to tell the Community Portal where to find the Special+X.xxx.zip file you just downloaded. Click the **Community Builds** tab on the left, then click **Choose Backup Storage Location**. Navigate to the folder containing the downloaded file then click **OK**
29. Click the **Community Portal Icon**, followed by **Maintenance > Backup/Restore > Restore My Content > Restore A Locally stored build**.
30. Navigate to the location of the Special X zip file that you downloaded and click on it
31. Don't worry about backing up, just click **Install**. Choose to overwrite existing database files.
32. Restart Kodi

You're done!

Using Special X

Quick Start

If you're in a hurry to see how this works, click [Add-ons](#) then hover over [Video add-ons](#) and click any of the icons.

Exodus is the most popular add-on by far and a great place to start.

Settings

The settings in the Special K build should be fine for most users but you do need to check the basic video and audio settings to make sure they match your system. Go to the Home Screen then click the [Settings Icon](#) followed by [System Settings](#). Any changes you make to these settings will remain when you upgrade to a newer Special K build.

Feel free to check out all the other system settings.. In addition to the system settings, the add-ons also have their own individual settings. Right click on an add-on and click [Settings](#)

If you want to use Spotify in the Music Add-ons, you will have to enter your login credentials in the settings

Updates

Most of the time Kodi and the add-ons will simply update themselves without you having to do anything. Eventually though add-ons will stop working, they either just disappear, or transform into a new add-on which requires tinkering with Kodi. It's easier to just download an updated version of Special X.

If you find that something is not working which isn't fixed with the latest update of Special X, you can leave a comment in Dropbox by clicking the file then click the 'Comment' tab. You may wish to periodically check for updates even if everything is working well as new features will likely be added to the build in the future.

How to install Special X updates

1. [Download the latest version of Special X here](#)
2. Open Kodi and click **Add-ons** in the left column of the home screen
3. Click the **Community Portal Icon**, followed by **Maintenance > Backup/Restore > Restore My Content > Restore A Locally stored build**
4. Navigate to the location of the Special X zip file that you downloaded
5. Don't worry about backing up, just click **Install**. This time choose to **not** overwrite existing database files.

System and add-on settings should remain after the update, but if you installed additional add-ons the update will delete them

Tips on using Special X

Although there are a number of video add-ons included, the most popular by far is Exodus which will often give you the best selection and quality. Some of the other add-ons have their particular unique features which are worth exploring, cCloud is usually best for live TV for example.

When you select a movie or TV show to watch, it may take a minute or so to generate a list of sources. Be patient, it's doing a lot of work. Generally (but not always) the best quality stream will be on top. I wouldn't bother if there isn't a choice with 1080p beside it (or at least HD which usually means 720p). It's not common, but if the first choice doesn't look like 1080p, stop it, back out and try the second one in the list.

Availability of high quality streams depends on a number of factors. You will have no problem getting last year's blockbuster. But if you're looking for the super popular movie that opened last weekend in theaters, you're probably going to have to settle for a cam (not always though!)

You may want to consider getting a free [Trakt](#) account. This service keeps track of what you watch on different services and gives some useful tools to pick out a movie you want to watch. Most video add-ons offer Trakt integration in their settings. Right click on a video add-on icon, select Settings, then look for reference to 'Trakt' or 'Accounts' and enter your login credentials

Kodi isn't just for video feeds. This build includes TuneIn Radio which can access virtually any live radio station on earth. Spotify of course gives on-demand access to a huge music library. You do have to enter your login credentials to use Spotify. While listening to music, 'Escape' back to the home screen, then click the **Remote Arrows** icon in the upper left. From here, click on the screen if the controls aren't visible, then click the **Settings** icon lower right. From here, click **Visualisation** and select **Milkdrop 2**. Then click **Lyrics** icon > **Get More...** > **CU LRC Lyrics**. Now click the **Lyrics** icon (next to the **Settings** icon) to see lyrics for the song that's playing.

Included Add-ons

Add-ons - Video

Exodus - by far the most popular addon with high quality reliable video streams

cCloud TV - specializes in TV streams, both Live and OVD

Stream All The Sources (SALTS) - another video streaming addon

Phoenix - another video streaming addon

Specto - fork - this is actually a sibling of Exodus. They both share the same parent, the great but now deprecated Genesis

YouTube - interface to the familiar YouTube service. Required by several other addons for video feeds

Pro Sport - live sports streams, choose from NBA, NHL, NFL, MLB

Add-ons Music

Spotify - Great source for virtually any available music. You do have to sign in with your Spotify credentials, either a free or paid account

TuneIn Radio - Streams radio stations from around the world. Works with or without signing in. If you encounter geo-restricted content you may have to adjust your VPN server location

Add-ons - Program

Community Portal - required to install Special K

F4mProxy - ignore, required by other addons

Specto Themepack - ignore, required by other addons

Security Shield - a recently discovered security flaw in Kodi reveals malicious code could be included in an add-on [allowing attackers to gain access to your system](#). This is another reason not to buy pre-loaded boxes. I promise this build is clean, but if you want to check, click **Security Shield**, then **Scan my system**

Visualizations

Milkdrop2 - a music visualization application

Updates

Special X.100 - Initial build